

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CAB-09 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 FAA-00 SAJ-01

OMB-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01 /158 W  
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R 291255 AUG 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3880

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMCONSUL ZURICH

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV ETRN WB UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTEST AGAINST EXPANSION OF BERLIN  
INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH MISSION OFFICERS AND OTHERS, FRENCH POLAD LEGRAIN HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT SOVIETS ARE ON FIRM GROUND IN PROTESTING ALLIED EXPANSION OF BERLIN INTERNATIONAL SERVICES SINCE FLIGHTS TO NON-FRG DESTINATIONS ARE CONTRAVENTION OF UNDERSTANDS UPON WHICH ESTABLISHMENT OF CORRIDORS WAS BASED. HE ALSO MADE HIS POINT RATHER OFFICIALLY, AT RECENT MINISTERS MEETING WITH SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS STOBBE AT WHICH HE REPRESENTED FRENCH MINISTER. WHEN WE POINTED OUT THAT BY THIS  
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THESES AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS TO PARIS WOULD BE EQUALLY UNJUSTIFIED, LEGRAIN RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS NOT SO, FOR, AS HE HAD INDICATED TO SOVIET POLITICAL COUNSELOR RODIN, AIR FRANCE FLIGHTS WERE TO QUADRIPARTITE CAPITAL. LEGRAIN'S CONCLUSION WAS THAT ANY RESPONSE TO SOVIET DEMARCHE OF JULY 22 WAS IMPOSSIBLE GIVEN ILLEGALITY OF OUR PRESENT INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS, LET ALON SERVICES PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE. WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF LEGRAIN HAS CONVEYED THESE VIEWS TO SOVIETS.

2. POSITION TAKEN BY LEGRAIN MAY ACCOUNT TO SOME EXTENT FOR QUAI OR FRENCH EMBASSY BONN DELAY IN AGREEING TO A REPLY. FRENCH HAVE NO APPARENT COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICES FROM BERLIN AND HAVE TRADITIONALLY OPPOSED ANY CHANGE IN STATUS QUO. ALTHOUGH FRENCH DEPUTY POLAD STATED AUGUST 28 HE BELIEVED FRENCH WERE ABOUT TO PRESENT A NEW DRAFT RESPONSE TO SOVIETS IN BONN GROUP, OTHER FRENCH MISSION OFFICERS HERE DO NOT EXPECT FRENCH TO AGREE TO ANY RESPONSE. GIVEN LEGRAIN'S ATTITUDE, REGARDLESS OF DEGREE TO WHICH IT BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS, WE CANNOT EXPECT TO OVERCOME FRENCH OPPOSITION TO REPLY HERE IN BERLIN.

3. AT SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO REPLY TO SOVIET DEMARCHE WHICH HAS REMAINED UNANSWERED BY ALLIES FOR OVER MONTH. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD AT MINIMUM BE INTERPRETED BY SOVIETS AS EVIDENCE OF BREACH IN ALLIED UNITY ON A BASIC ISSUE. WE URGE THEREFORE THAT EMBASSY PRESS FOR EARLY FRENCH AGREEMENT ON RESPONSE TO SOVIET DEMARCHE, REMINDING THEM THAT FRANCE IN PAST JOINED IN ALLIED REJECTIONS OF SIMILAR SOVIET ASSERTIONS. MATERIAL CONTAINED IN ATTACHMENT TO BERLIN'S A-184 OF 9 AUGUST 74 SHOULD PROVE HELPFUL IN THIS RESPECT, IN PARTICULAR IDENTICAL OFFICIAL NOTES OF AUGUST 22, 1964. FACT THAT PAN AM'S AMSTERDAM SERVICE HAS RUN SMOOTHLY IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT. KLEIN

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 AUG 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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